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Joseph Thomas
Supervisory Patent Examiner
A.U. 3626
CPK 5, Room 7D08
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application/control Number: 10/054,504

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Thank you for your email of August 12, 2004 in response to my letter to Ms. Bleck of July 20th 2004. I have not received any communication to the letter I sent via surface mail on August 11th and so am writing this one to address several outstanding issues.

As per your instructions, I formally request to have communications from your office via email so long as you continue to send them 'certified' (i.e., upon opening them I must click 'yes' to acknowledge receipt so that a message is returned to you) as you did the above email, so that you know that none are being lost or intercepted. In case you need to have me use the formal wording you proposed, here it is verbatim: "Recognizing that Internet communications are not secure, I hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file." The aforementioned quoted text, in addition to the stipulation regarding certified email, represents my wishes and it is my understanding that this and the prior emails and surface letters I have sent will be added to this application file. If I am incorrect in these assumptions please notify me as soon as possible since I see that this file does not contain the communications since July and I would like those included.

With regard to my suspicion of discrimination against applicants without lawyers, you provided much information about the law but that was not my question; I asked what the data shows in terms of time duration, not what the law codifies (since blatant discrimination against disenfranchised persons has been outlawed in the US for many years I would not expect the patent office to overtly authorize it). As you are doubtlessly aware, discrimination is often detected through actions not laws – the medical literature is rife with studies showing different care offered to patients based on ethnicity – and so I think data is important to answer my question.

Mr. Thomas, if you do not intend to answer this or the other questions I posed in earlier letters, please say so directly rather than evade or ignore them. Also, you never responded to the email I sent two weeks ago asking who your supervisor is – as a supervisor you no doubt see great value in having one's performance monitored.

Please let me know:

1. To whom I can address these questions if you do not intend to address them and
2. Who is your supervisor (full name and address).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph Leonard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Ralph" on the top line and "Leonard" on the bottom line.

Ralph Leonard, MD, MPH